

## **Early Winter 2010**

Welcome readers to the start of the cold season, especially new members O M Oden, Stu Brown and J D Crowskey.

The view out the window today has snow well down the bush towards the lake. As is usual with this time of year, animal recovery is winding down into winter mode.

The weather this past bugle has certainly saved some bulls from harvest so next years hunters may have more to choose from. Information has come to hand of a 15 pt trophy taken in George Sound during the 2<sup>nd</sup> period by Johnny Collie. It is believed to score around 300 DS but no specific details have come to hand. Congratulations Johnny. Unfortunately there appears to be a number of immature animals taken as well which is not helpful for future hunters after a trophy in that area. This is also the case with a small number of other blocks but the message of leaving young animals to mature is generally getting through to the vast majority of Wapiti hunters.

### **May Meeting**

The Anau Club was again the venue for this meeting. I must rectify a mistake in the last newsletter that stated that Foundation volunteer effort was around 833 hours per year.

It is actually 833 *days* per year, a much larger amount by all counts.

The issue of compliance was well discussed with a commitment to surveillance around the next bugle due to the ongoing problem of illegal hunting in the Wapiti area. We are committed to sorting this so will be having a presence in and around the Wapiti area next bugle.

The Department of Conservation is working through the change of issuing hunting permits to an online system with a time line of July to have it up and running nationally. There will be significant cost savings for the Department here. The Foundation is working with the Dept in relation to hunting permits for the Wapiti area.

Over 90% of hunting returns including photos of animals taken from the past bugle have been received, so thanks to all hunters who have sent them in. Returns are one of the important tools for the Foundation to successfully manage the Wapiti area.

A Code of Conduct has been developed by the President for users of the Wapiti area.

Just remember that the ballot applications open

the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August and close mid October.

After a large amount of work, our Business Plan is nearly complete. The Plan should be beneficial to achieving our goals in a structured and efficient way.

A new location for the Crown Herd is required and will be discussed further at the June meeting following investigations and recommendations from the Herd Committee.

Due to inclement weather and work commitments, no recent stoat control work has been undertaken. However, an early winter effort will be undertaken if possible.

### **FWF Photo Competition**

The quality of entries this year has improved according to judges. Thanks to everyone who entered, the results follow. 1<sup>st</sup>: Mark Jeffares with a stunning image of a bull on the tops. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Willie Duley having another great image of a bugling bull. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Dave Wise. This image is a silhouette of a bull on the skyline. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to everyone who entered. The main purpose of this competition is to encourage Wapiti hunters to let bulls mature, and as

## **Early Winter 2010**

stated previously, the message seems to be getting through.

### **Joint Community Proposal**

This is the application that we have with the Dept to formalise the animal control that we are undertaking in the Wapiti area to bring everything up to date with the current FNP Management Plan. It has been hoped that this would have been sorted by now ready for advertising but some last minute changes have been required. Notification of the intent to let a Concession to the Foundation is now not far away. We will keep you posted.

### **Destination Fiordland Photo Competition**

This annual competition is now underway with the closing date being Sunday 3 October with the Foundation being one of the sponsors. Categories include Landscapes of Fiordland, Wildlife & Nature, People in the Park, Life in Fiordland, and Peoples Choice which is decided by visitors to the exhibition. Major prizes as above are \$300 and lesser categories \$100 which include Forest Scene, Underwater World, Macro, Art in the Park, Wet & Wonderful, Huntin'

& Fishin', Wapiti Area Activities, More Wilderness – Our People and Promising Young Photographer. Check out the website [www.fiordland.org.nz](http://www.fiordland.org.nz) for all details.

### **Sub Payments**

To save time and effort for everyone, the Foundation is now promoting direct debit. If you wish to follow this up, contact me and I will forward the form to your address.

### **Fundraising**

As stated in a recent newsletter, NZ Outdoor Hunting magazine is generously donating \$200 per Wapiti article that is printed in their magazine. The latest issue, Volume 72 Issue 4, sports an article by Simon Bullivant on the Mid Burn which is interesting reading so obtain a copy for relaxation on these colder nights. Many thanks to NZ Outdoor Hunting for your continued support.

### **Hunters Ball**

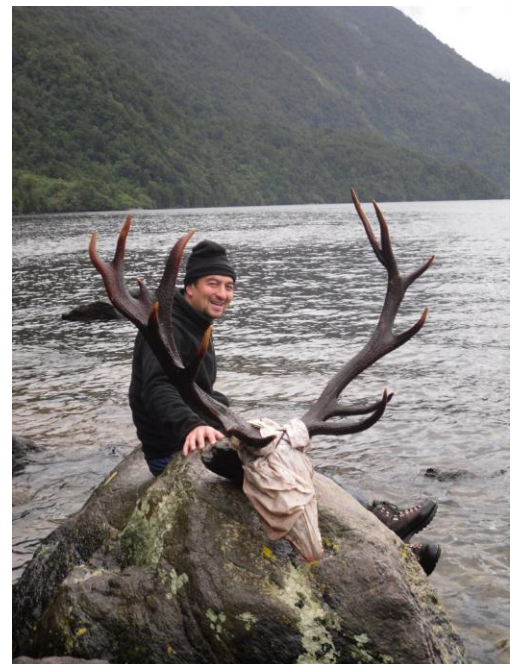
This year the Ball is on September 11th at Fiordland Lodge. This is all about raising funds, a good time, live band and banquet food.

### **Next Meeting**

This will be June 27 at Jack McKenzie's farmhouse in Waikaka. Please bring along lunch as usual.

*Paul Peychers  
Newsletter Editor*

### **Johnny Collie with his George River trophy**



**Early Winter 2010**